



Meeting Minutes

SUBJECT: Ecology and Environmental Awareness Committee

DATE: February 26, 2009

LOCATION: City Hall, 1st Floor Main Conf. Room

FROM: John Wulf, Acting Director of Public Works / City Engineer

ATTENDEES: Diane Meyer (Chair), Pam Fournier, Catherine Werner, Peter John Le Blanc Jr., Richard Marx, Andrea Maddox-Dallas (Aldermanic Representative), John Wulf (Staff Liaison), Daneen Schlereth (Recording Secretary)

ABSENT: Martha Kohn, Alex Bornstein, Stan Braude, M. Lee Gerdelman

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - 5:10pm.

APPROVE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES - December 18, 2009 meeting minutes were approved.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Fran Lang resigned. Welcomed new committee members Stan Braude and John Paul Le Blanc.

INTRODUCTIONS

The committee welcomed two guests: Susie Hochman and Jack Prebil. Susie Hochman, Clayton resident, represents a citizens group that wants to get involved in energy efficiency conservation. She wanted to determine what her group could do. Jack Prebil, Clayton resident, hoping to join the committee. He owns property at 7912 Kingsbury in Ward 3. He wants to learn more about recycling and what he could do to help in the community.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Guest Speaker: Janet Eiserle, City of Clayton Event Coordinator

Janet discussed the Earth Day 2009 event, which is being held in Shaw Park on April 18th from 11am to 2pm. Clayton is sharing the event with Richmond Heights and Maplewood.

There will be plenty of vendor booths, food and music. A special area for kids will be set up this year with education material, storytelling and crafts to be made out of recyclable materials.

The event is offering a Poster Contest again – ages ranging from 4 -12. Entries will be judged the Wednesday or Thursday before. Janet was hoping to again get volunteers from the EEAC committee along with volunteers from the other cities involved to do the judging.

Ideas given to Janet for the event were:

- Display a pile of compost and a map directing residents to the location where they can pick it up.
- Set up a display of the different type of items that can be recycled.
- More food booths for people to picnic.
- Suggest vendor booths use recycled materials, (tablecloths, napkins, etc).
- Hanley House is having an herb sale, (maybe have display booths).
- Native plant display – (possible demonstration on creating a native plant garden).
- Promote the event in the next City Views Newsletter.
- Add more directional signs to the event, (difficult to find last year).
- Emailing the flyer around to spread the word. .
- Sample of rain barrels and how they work.

OLD BUSINESS

1) City Views

- a. John was able to include in the February issue the Electronic Recycle Event that is scheduled for March 20th & 21st in Shaw Park.
- b. Discussed with the committee about submitting an informational piece for every issue, whether it be just gardening information or announcement of an event.
- c. Mulch delivery information will be in the next City Views issue.

Diane asked that the new members and guests be made aware of the availability of the mulch, how much it costs and where to find it. John explained how the leaves are processed and that approximately 12,000 cubic yards of leaves are collected at the curb throughout the leaf pick up program that runs from Oct. – Dec and the first 2 weeks in April. Mulch can be delivered to residential properties upon receipt of application and a \$40.00 delivery fee. Mulch is also available for free, self-serve pick up in southern parking lot of Shaw Park by the cardboard recycling containers.

2) Rain Barrels

Still waiting to hear from Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District. Catherine provided a brief description on how the rain barrels work to the new members and guests. It was

suggested we stop waiting for MSD and experiment with a small part of Clayton on our own. The desire is to find a solution to some of Clayton's sewer issues.

Janet stated she thought there were a couple of rain barrels in Oak Knoll Park. She indicated that she is not sure if they are set up but, if anyone is interested in seeing what one looks like, they could visit Oak Knoll Park.

Diane stated she would really like to see rain barrels happen in Clayton.

3) Commercial Recycling

John stated that Jain Punit was getting information on commercial recycling, but he could not make the meeting this evening.

Richard asked "How are we recycling commercially?" John stated that commercial recycling is the responsibility of each individual business. The city provides residential recycling pick ups only through its contract with Allied Waste. Commercial recycling is something the committee would like to see done in Clayton. The City does not have an ordinance to force businesses to recycle. Businesses have to contract with a hauler for their pick ups on a volunteer basis.

John provided the percentage of residential recycling for fiscal year 2007-2008. The city was just under 30%, which is equal to 1,400 tons collected by Allied Waste. Within the first 3 months of the current fiscal year, the city has was on target to surpass its total from last year at 33%. The committee would like to see what we did fiscal year 2006-2007 to compare 2 full years and then compare the numbers with other cities. John said he received the percentages from other cities but hasn't had the chance to put it together. He indicated that he will email the information out to the members when he gets a chance to decipher it.

Richard stated that he felt that with more education, the City should be able to do a lot better than 30%. John stated that information is currently available on the City's web page, refrigerator magnets are available in the Public Works Department and stickers were placed on the lids of the City provided recycling containers. Each provides a list of items that can be recycled. Diane and Richard both agreed the magnets were a little out dated but the web site information is more accurate. Diane advised the committee that aerosol cans are now recyclable.

It was asked if we had a way of tracking how much recycling came out of each neighborhood. John stated that this was not possible due to the methods used to gather the recycling weights.

4) Blueprint for Action

- a. John suggested that the committee look over the updated version Paul put on the City's website; review what the committee has done in the past and decide what more can be done. John stated that one item that keeps coming up is commercial recycling. Previously, the committee discussed conducting a survey of the businesses and to determine how to can bring them up to speed on recycling. The committee needs to target its efforts and may be able to use the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce to communicate with the businesses.

b. Special Events – Do they use recycling materials?

Janet commented that she attended a seminar in Boise, Idaho last September. At the conference they said using recyclable items would be a tremendous expense on the events. Some of the coordinators were not ready to take on that expense unless someone sponsors it. Most of the events are for charities. As far as City events, we only provide recycle containers for aluminum. The City does try to encourage the vendors to use whatever recycling items they can find, (napkins, tablecloths, etc). The City is looking into focusing on changing one thing each year, possibly napkins or t-shirts.

Janet state that the City is in the process of researching “green” options for the Taste of Clayton, but with economy the way it is they are down about \$30,000 in sponsorship from last year. The City is trying to cut costs here and there; however it does not have any frivolous expenses at this time. The City has to provide the basics such as port-a-potties and electricity. However, the committee is in the process of reviewing the budget and right now there isn't a lot it can cut.

A suggestion was made to Janet that the events use more sustainable items and use fewer things that are throwaways. For example; use cloth tablecloths and wash them instead of plastic, different things like that will make a difference. Janet agreed that it's our responsibility to provide the information and to get people more educated on using recycled materials.

c. Richard asked if we could hold a special meeting to go over the committee's Blueprint for Action. Diane suggested we have that as our only agenda item and discuss it during our regular monthly meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) **Clayton Electronic Recycling Event** – the event is scheduled for Friday, March 20th from 8am to 5pm and Saturday, March 21st and from 9am to 4pm @ the south parking lot of Shaw Park.
- 2) John announced to the committee that a new Public Works Director was hired. His name is Michael Pratt; his first day will be Monday, March 9th. John hopes to get the new director up to speed on the committee and their mission prior to the next meeting.
- 3) Richard brought up an article he found in the New York Times regarding the stimulus bill providing money for individuals and for governments to do energy saving reconstruction and what the benefits would be from it. John advised the committee the Missouri DNR is going to have funding through there organization and some will deal with energy. However, it's unclear at this time with the speed of information developing so rapidly; how much will be available, what is available, how they are going to distribute it or what kind of process they are going to have to apply for a grant. John said he called for information, but the agencies are not providing information at this time. John stated that the City will be looking for every opportunity to take advantage of any available stimulus funding.
- 4) John informed the committee that the City has already changed the traffic signals & pedestrian lights to LEDs from incandescent lights. The City has seen a huge cost savings. The LED's lights have a life span approximately three times as long as incandescent lights. The committee asked if we can use the LEDs in street lights. John stated that he met with a distributor a couple of weeks ago and the LED's for the street

lights just have not reached the quality of lighting that Clayton is accustomed to. The technology is getting closer and closer to appropriate standards and the City will take advantage of it when it does becomes available.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting will be Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 5:00pm. The meeting will be at City Hall.

MEETING AJOURNED – 6:10pm

Cc: Lenore Toser-Aldaz, Deputy City Manager
Michael Pratt, Director of Public Works
June Waters, City Clerk